

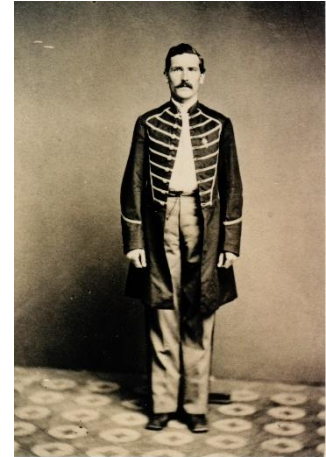


2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

John Craven

John Craven was born in Pennsylvania on May 21, 1832 and came to Minnesota in 1854. He settled in the town of Forest, Rice County. He joined the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery on March 20, 1862. He was 28 years old and single when he enlisted. He had gray eyes, sandy hair and complexion. He stood 5 foot 11-1/2 inches tall.

On June 27, 1863, another member of the Battery (Spaulding) noted in his diary that John had gotten hurt. Another mention in the Battery's Christian Class book further explains that John had been disabled when a caisson ran over his ankles.



The Christian Class was a group within the Second Minnesota Battery. Craven was elected class leader for a Christian Class near Rossville, Georgia, in 1864. These men gathered together to worship and pray, both for themselves and for their comrades. Craven kept a "Class book" of their activities and another member wrote in it while he was injured.

A casualty sheet for John describes the injury as "one leg broken near ankle the other badly crushed. Run over by Caisson." This happened on June 25, 1863, near Liberty Gap, Tennessee.

John did not leave the service because of his injury, though he chose not to reenlist. Since he did not reenlist, he served with Battery I, Second Illinois Light Artillery while the Minnesota Battery went home on their veteran's leave. This temporary duty put John in the action of the battles for Atlanta, Georgia, in the summer of 1864. He eventually returned to the Second Minnesota and continued to serve with the Battery until his term of service expired in March of 1865.

In 1890, John claimed a disability due to "both ankles injured by a caisson running over his ankles" and received a pension.

After the war, John went back to his home in Forest for a few years, then moved into the second ward of the city of Faribault, Minnesota.

John was interested in politics and religion as evidenced by a few scattered letters John left behind, though only parts of these letters remain.

John died on October 14, 1900, at his home in Faribault. He was buried from the Methodist Church and interred in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2nd Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. Visit our website at <http://www.2mnbattery.org> for more information about our soldiers and our organization.

Updated: 22 April 2019